

thank Congressman NUSSLE for bringing this important budgetary reform to the floor.

I also came to the floor this afternoon in support of an Amendment that my colleagues, Representatives DREIER, LUTHER, REGULA, and HALL will be debating shortly that would provide for a two-year federal budget process.

Mr. Chairman, like many of my friends on both sides of the aisle, I served in the state legislature before my election to the House in 1994. The North Carolina General Assembly, like many other states, operates under a two-year, biennial budget process.

That is what brings me to the floor today. Like many of my colleagues, I am frustrated with the annual budget system.

We spend months of every year debating the same issues. That leaves very little time for Members to explore many of the issues that directly affect the citizens of this nation.

A biennial budget would allow Members to devote the first session of any Congress to the budget resolution and appropriations decisions. The second session would be dedicated to program oversight in order to help eliminate wasteful government spending.

This process would provide Congress time to better address issues of important national interest, like the state of our military readiness, how to protect our nation's seniors and improve the current health care system, and how to best provide an effective safety net for our nation's farmers.

A biennial budget would also allow Congress to better manage unforeseen emergency budget situations that face our nation like the forest fires New Mexico is currently battling, or the hurricanes that have devastated North Carolina's coastline for the last few years.

When hurricanes have hit North Carolina, the General Assembly has been able to successfully help the State meet its unmet needs without creating undue hardship on the State or on our communities.

Mr. Chairman, Congress has a constitutional responsibility to oversee government spending and to improve the way government works. When we dedicate such a significant amount of time each year to appropriate funds for government programs, we lose out on needed opportunities to evaluate the performance of those programs and make necessary changes. A biennial budget would allow a full year of oversight to determine what is working and what is not so that the appropriations process can move more smoothly and the government can run more efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Comprehensive Budget Process reform. I also hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the biennial budget amendment to ensure American taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely.

HONORING TOPSFIELD,
MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, Topsfield, Massachusetts is observing a year-long celebra-

tion of the 350th anniversary of its founding as a town by the General Court of the Commonwealth in 1650. The observance will not only reflect upon the town's proud history, but will look with optimism toward the future.

When Governor John Winthrop arrived in Salem harbor in 1630, Masconomet, the sagamore of the Agawam tribe, who lived in the Topsfield area, welcomed him. The regional high school is named for Masconomet, who always lived peacefully with his new neighbors.

The early settlers of Topsfield, named after Toppesfield, England, were mostly farmers. But as British encroachment on their liberty through passage of various taxes escalated through the late 1600s and the 1700s, they became more and more concerned about defending against attack. On April 19, 1775, 110 of Topsfield's citizenry in two companies joined with other towns in a march to Lexington and Concord to fight the redcoats at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War. Topsfield citizens have served with distinction in every war since.

While the town's character has changed through the years from farming to light manufacture and small business, it has retained its rural character. It is home each autumn to the Topsfield Fair, the Nation's oldest agricultural exposition. Its Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest sanctuary in the Massachusetts Audubon system.

A number of famous people have called Topsfield home. The Stanley family of the Stanley Steamer automobile arrived in 1659 and lived in the town until 1778. The ancestors of two leaders of the Mormon Church, Joseph Smith, its founder, and Brigham Young, its second president, were near neighbors in Topsfield.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Topsfield stands at the beginning of this new century looking optimistically toward a bright future while celebrating its long and proud heritage. A time capsule is being assembled that will include essays by fourth graders about what life was like in the year 2000, as well as recollections of seniors about the century just past. To those residents of Topsfield in the year 2100, as well as to the town's current citizens, may I add my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

HONORING ST. FRANCIS PRAYER
CENTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on behalf of a group of people who have made the community a truly joyous place to live. On Saturday, May 20, the St. Francis Prayer Center in Flint, Michigan, will celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

For many years, Father Phil Schmitter and Sister Joanne Chiaverini have worked diligently to do the Lord's work throughout the Flint community. Their selfless nature is tremendous and the compassion they show is indescribable. When creating the St. Francis Prayer Center in 1975, they were committed to simple goals: they wanted a central location

where even the poor could walk, where they could provide guidance and promote spirituality regardless of denomination, and work to help bridge the gap between racial and religious lines. As a lifelong Flint resident, I am happy to say that their efforts have indeed improved understanding, acceptance, and genuine positive regard within the city of Flint, and the surrounding communities. They have provided a resource that we all can be very proud of. They have helped people come closer to God and to one another.

Also, the accomplishments of St. Francis would not be as strong if not for the work of the members of the Prayer Center Board and the many volunteers who are always there to lend a helping hand. These people also give much of themselves to further the impact that the center makes.

Mr. Speaker, our community would not be the same without the presence of Father Phil Schmitter, Sister Joanne Chiaverini, and the St. Francis Prayer Center. Just as I consider it an honor and a pleasure to serve here as a Member of Congress, they also understand the joy of serving. I am pleased to ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating them on 25 wonderful years, and wish them success toward the next 25.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VERSAILLES CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD RECIPIENTS NONA AND
BILL CAINE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I was recently informed that the Versailles Chamber of Commerce will present Nona and Bill Caine with the Lifetime Achievement Award on May 26, 2000, in a ceremony at the Morgan County Historical Society Heritage Garden in Versailles, Missouri.

Bill owned and operated Versailles Furniture for over 30 years. In addition to running his business, he served as the First Sergeant of the Army Reserve Unit and as the Mayor of the City of Versailles for six years. During his term in office, he oversaw installation of the airport, construction of the water tower and server for the southwestern part of the city and development of the parks system. Bill is also responsible for reviving the Versailles Chamber of Commerce and served as both Chamber President and Board Member. He shared responsibility, along with Rufus Harms, for organizing the Versailles Industrial Trust. Additionally, Bill served as President of the Versailles Lions Club and was twice the Fair Board Chairman for the Morgan County Fair.

Bill led three major community fund drives for the Brown Shoe Company, the Sheltered Workshop and the railroad spur. He was involved in the acquisition of Brown Shoe Company, Dixon Ticonderoga Pencil Company and Gates Rubber Company in Versailles. He presently serves on the Versailles Cemetery Board, Good Shepherd Nursing Home District Board and Bank of Versailles Board of Directors.